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THE GLORY OF ART.

SEEST thou upon yon high and radiant throne
 A spirit of majestic brow and mien;
 With form of wondrous beauty and with face
 Wherein the beams of power and love are seen?
 'Tis wondrous ART: sweet Art,—it is to thee
 We offer now the bursts of mistrely.

As doth the Sun to beauty and to life
 E'er minister with high and strong control;
 The hues of beauty summoning, and all
 Life's mystic currents gladdening,—till the soul
 Is rapt with nature's loveliness; so, Art
 Enkindles thought,—refinement bright imparts.

She bids the scene historic rise afresh
 Before the charmed eye in life's rich hues;
 Forth from their dim, deep caverns she compels
 The spirits of the dead; and then imbues
 Their misty forms with force and light; they stand
 Embodied, and act o'er Earth's drama grand.

The fields of fancy and of feeling,—these
 Are thine, illustrious, sorrow-cheering Art!
 Life's grosser scenes and passions to forsake
 The witchery of thy triumphs wins the heart;
 As morning's beauty woos the mist to rise
 From rank, dark fens to brighten in the skies.

While fancies, poetry and lovely dreams,
 Fair as Love's wings, or as Hope's sunniest smile,
 And lofty thoughts, sublime as Alpine heights,
 Engage thy power: e'er let not aught beguile
 From sacred themes,—whose spirit grandeur lends;
 Earth's loftiest triumphs claim some sacred ends.

REV. G. HUNTINGTON.

Architecture.

AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS.

Regular Meeting, April 5th, 1859.—After a lengthy discussion of the law in relation to unsafe buildings now before the Legislature at Albany, it was resolved that the Chair appoint a committee of three to draw up a memorial, which shall receive the signature of the president, and which shall be forwarded to the Legislature. The committee appointed consisted of the following gentlemen—J. W. Ritch, L. Eidlitz, and J. C. Wells.

Upon motion it was resolved that the Secretary should be put upon the Committee on Papers.

A Committee on Lectures was appointed by the Chair, consisting of Messrs. F. Diaper, Calvert Vaux, H. Van Brunt.

A resolution was passed ordering that the Second Regular Monthly meetings shall no longer take place in the afternoon, but shall be held in the evening, as formerly.

Special Meeting of April 9th.—A very interesting debate took place upon the subject of Competition—a subject of very great importance to members of the profession, and but little understood by building committees in general. Many nice distinctions were drawn between public and private competition; and many good suggestions were made for the purpose of securing perfect fairness to the competitors. Owing to the late hour

of the evening it was resolved to adjourn; the discussion to be resumed at the next regular meeting.

Regular Meeting of Tuesday, April 19th, 1859.—The Committee on Fire Laws reported progress, also the Committee on Lectures.

Mr. Eidlitz having resigned from the Committee on Papers, James Newick, Jun., was appointed to fill the vacancy.

L. Eidlitz read the following paper:

A circular published by the trustees of Plymouth Church called *A Statement to Architects*, contains two points upon which I think it desirable to make a few remarks. The trustees desire to seat comfortably six thousand persons within hearing distance of a speaker in a building which is to have no more than two galleries. They also desire a lecture-room, aside from the above, which is to accommodate eight hundred people on one floor. All this is to be done on a lot of ground 150 feet by 200 feet. The considerations involved in the above propositions are, whether the ground is sufficiently large for the demands, and whether six thousand people can be seated in any building with but two galleries, and the building at the same time to be so constructed that *all* may be able to hear.

The first question, as to the amount of room required, is very readily solved. Allowing 1 ft. 6 in. by 2 ft. 6 in. for the seating of each person—which, I think, is the minimum ever allowed in a well constructed audience room—it will be found that it requires a building 150 ft. by 233 ft. to seat 6,000 persons, viz.: 2,000 on the ground floor, 1,400 on the first, and 1,600 on the second gallery; this, of course, includes the aisles, passages, stairways, and other accessories absolutely necessary. A lecture-room to seat 800 persons requires, upon the same principle, a building at least 35 ft. by 150 ft.—a very unfavorable form, to be sure, but accepted on the score of economy of space. Adding the two together, it will be found that to meet the conditions proposed, it would require a lot at least 150 feet wide by 268 feet in depth, or 68 feet more in depth than is proposed by the trustees.

The next question is, can a building with two galleries be constructed wherein 6,000 persons can hear well? This involves the study of a problem in acoustics which has never been solved, and which I now propose to discuss. It is well known to you that the form of a room best adapted for hearing is that of an ellipse, the speaker being placed in one of the centres. The reason of this is obvious. All rays of sound emanating from that centre are concentrated by reflection in the other centre, owing to the peculiar property of the ellipse of reflecting rays of sound in that direction, the angle of reflection being equal to the angle of incident. This second centre is, in all cases, in the centre or near the centre of the audience, and if that centre is not *too far* removed from the outer wall of the room, so far from causing injurious reverberation or distinct echoes, this reflected sound goes far to strengthen the original sound of the voice. It has been ascertained, however, by experiments made by Professor Henry at the Smithsonian Institute, that 35 feet is the limit to which reflected sound can be merged in the original sound—that is to say, the time taken by a ray of sound in traversing 35 feet and back again, is sufficiently long to produce upon the human ear a distinct and separate impression known as an echo when sufficiently clear, or as reverberation when indistinct. In either case, it is sufficient to destroy the effect of the original sound. I find upon examination, that the centres of an ellipse constructed within the area of the given lot in the